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have long been in need of a concise, yet sufficiently inclusive, and inexpensive manual. The present book, a thick volume of small size (3x6 inches), seems well calculated to meet this want, for while containing the information that is to the point it is yet sufficiently brief to be convenient for ready reference; and its author, well known for his ornithological writings and an authority on the birds of his native land, is guarantee sufficient of requisite accuracy.

The first part, to which 163 pages are devoted, consists of general matter under various headings, as follows, each of which is treated with such fullness as its importance in this connection demands: External Structure; Feathers (structure and color); Molt and Pterylography; Imitative Coloration; Dimorphism; Hybridism; Females in Male Plumage; Teratology; Geographical Distribution; Migration; Song; Nest and Eggs; Classification.

The remainder of the book is taken up by the descriptive part, in which each of the 473 species and trinomial subspecies now accredited to the Italian avifauna is separately treated. The scientific name, and the vernacular,—usually in French, German, and English, as well as Italian—are given; also essential synonymy, chiefly Italian references; a description of male, female, and young; geographical distribution, both general and local; a more or less extended account of habits; and sometimes critical notes, zoological or nomenclatural.

Text illustrations are numerous, chiefly heads or structural details, but they add much to the usefulness of the volume; while the 36 full-page plates, representing nests or other facts connected with the life history of the species portrayed, are of additional interest and value. The type and general make-up are good; but we miss entirely the keys to species and higher groups that are generally so conspicuous and convenient, not to say necessary, a feature of modern bird books such as this. It is likewise to be regretted that a more modern classification could not have been adopted: the list begins with the Vulturidæ and ends with the Alcidiæ. Notwithstanding these defects, the author is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory performance of his task; and it is to be hoped that the book will meet with the cordial reception it deserves.—H. C. OBERHOLSER.

THE AMERICAN NATURAL HISTORY. A Foundation of Useful Knowledge of the Higher Animals of North America. By WILLIAM T. HORNADAY, Director of the New York Zoological Park, author of "Two Years in the Jungle," etc. Illustrated by 227 original drawings by Beard, Rungius, Sawyer and others, 116 photographs, chiefly by Sanborn, Keller and Underwood, and numerous charts and maps. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, M C M IV—8 vo. pp: XV+449. \$3.50, postage extra.

By reason of his wide experience with live animals Mr. Hornaday is especially well fitted to prepare a Natural History that will appeal to American readers. The "volume is intended as builders filling in the chasm that now exists between the technical 'zoology' of the college and the 'nature-study' lessons of the common schools." The author "has striven to accomplish two ends: (1) to make clear each animal's place in the great system of Nature, and (2) to introduce the animal in such a manner as to enable the reader to become personally acquainted with it."

The introduction covers seven pages and contains explanations of classification, nomenclature, rules for measuring mammals, horns, etc., together with a short exposition on "The Intelligence of Animals: A Warning," in which the author scores the modern school of romancers, masquerading as interpreters of so-called animal intelligence and emotions. The book is systematically arranged, and begins with the mammals and ends with the lancelets, being concerned with the animals commonly known as "vertebrates." To the mammals about 170 pages are devoted, to the birds 140, to the reptiles 43, to the amphibians 12, and to the fishes 75. About 300 well chosen and important species are treated, of which a few are exotic, being introduced in order to fill in important gaps in the general system. Among the birds, as elsewhere in the book, the commoner species receive the fuller treatment, those forms of less popular interest having short notes. The author points out the desirability of preserving bird life, and emphasizes the economic status of birds, especially of the hawks and owls. The book is profusely illustrated with drawings and photographs, most of which are exceptionally good. Mr. Hornaday's style is clear, concise, and interesting, and his book is put together in a common-sense, practical manner. The reader may also take comfort in the knowledge that what he is reading is authentic information.

A MONOGRAPH OF MARCUS ISLAND. An Account of its Physical Features and Geology, with Descriptions of the Fauna and Flora. By WM. ALANSON BRYAN, B. SC. Illustrated by a map, seven half-tone cuts and line drawings by the author. From the Occasional Papers of the Bernice Pauhi Bishop Museum, vol. II, No. 1, 1903 [1904] pp. 77-139.

In this highly interesting monograph Mr. Bryan has presented a valuable account of Marcus Island, a tiny speck of land situated 2400 miles westward from Honolulu and 4500 miles west by south from San Francisco. Until Mr. Bryan's visit this islet was practically unknown to Americans, although Japanese have recently visited it more or less regularly, and as we shall see

have devastated the bird colonies. Owing to the fact that Japan claimed the island, the naturalists were not allowed to use firearms, or rather to land with them, the Japanese officers in charge evidently fearing that the explorers might cherish hostile intentions. The islet is composed of coral, and is triangular in shape, with the sides about one and a half miles long. It is covered with trees and bushes except on the beaches, and harbors a considerable variety of sea birds. But to the disappointment of Mr. Bryan, no land birds were discovered. The special portion of the report includes an account of the birds, of which 18 species are listed, with short notices of the reptiles (2 species), insects, molluscs, crustaceans, botany, and an appendix containing a list of fishes by Bryan and Albert C. Herre. One new bird is described, *Micranous marcusii*, which is most nearly related to the noio, *M. hawaiiensis*. The account of the bird life is of great interest and value, and we are tempted to make extensive extracts. Even a casual glance at the paper will show that the author made good use of his week's sojourn on the island, and later has made good use of his pen. Space will permit, however, only a part of the story of the Laysan albatross which used to breed abundantly on the island. Only one bird was seen alive by Mr. Bryan.

"The story of the Marcus Island colony of goonies is one of death and extermination. In the beginning of the operations of the Japanese company on the island goonies were fairly abundant. Not being able to find guano by their crude methods, they developed a scheme whereby they were able to make a marketable commodity by killing the birds and boiling them down in great kettles. The resultant, consisting of flesh, bones and viscera, was barreled and shipped to Japan where it was used as a fertilizer. The long wing feathers of all the birds were pulled out and carefully preserved to be shipped to America and Europe and sold as 'eagle feathers,' which were in great demand for trimming on ladies' hats. The feathers from the breast were plucked off and sold by the pound. A profitable business was then developed, with the deplorable result that within six years the entire colony of these splendid birds has been exterminated." A specimen of *Larus vegæ* was secured from one of the residents of the island.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON BIRDS OF THE UPPER PECOS. BY FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY. From *The Auk*, XXI, July, 1904, pp. 348-363.

This paper is in some ways supplementary to Henshaw and Nelson's "List of Birds Observed in Summer and Fall on the Upper Pecos River, New Mexico" (*Auk* II, 1885, pp. 326-333; III, 1886 pp. 73-80) and consists of observations made on the Pecos Forest Reserve, and carried to an altitude of 13,300 feet on Pecos Baldy and Truchas Peaks. The list comprises 94 species, with annotations, some of which are quite extended, and written in Mrs. Bailey's usual clear style.

THE ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE. BY JOSEPH GRINNELL. From *The Auk*, XXI, July, 1904, pp. 364-382.

In this paper Mr. Grinnell points out the probable origin of the chestnut-backed and Hudsonian chickadee from a common ancestor, "*Parus pre-hudsonicus*," the chestnut-backed having differentiated first as a race of this hypothetical form. Finally through isolation it became a full species, restricted to the humid coast belt, while *hudsonicus*, another subspecies of "*pre-hudsonicus*," became confined to the boreal arid interior. Each species then differentiated races of its own as its range extended into new faunal conditions. The paper is illustrated by two maps and a chart.

A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA, WITH SYNOPSES. BY LAWRENCE BRUNER, ROBERT H. WALCOTT, MYRON H. SWENK, (no date; received Oct. 8, 1904.) 8 vo. 125 pages. Klopp & Bartlett Co., Omaha, Neb.

The synopses and careful annotations make this book really a manual of the birds of Nebraska, a manual at least that a student with some knowledge of birds will be able to handle. The paper is prefaced by an essay on "Birds in Relation to Agriculture and Horticulture" by Prof. Bruner. The annotations are short but definite, and are concerned entirely with the status of the species. We note that the authors have joined the ranks of the "non-possessive ornithologists," all of which indicates how the wind is blowing. This paper is decidedly a credit to its authors and to Nebraskan ornithologists. The reviewer hopes that the Cooper Ornithological Club will sometime be able to bring out a book on California birds modeled something after this brochure.

ADDITIONS TO MITCHELL'S LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS OF SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO. BY FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY. From *The Auk*, XXI, Oct. 1904, pp. 443-449.

This paper lists 56 species, being additions to Dr. Walton I. Mitchell's list of 85 species. The notes were taken during about two months of Biological Survey work spread over the three summer months. The paper opens with a description of the country and its faunal characteristics. No work was done in the northern part of the county east of the line between Las Vegas and Mora, which would probably have brought in a number of additional mountain species.

DESCRIPTION OF FOUR NEW BIRDS FROM MEXICO. BY E. W. NELSON. From *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* XVII, Oct. 6, 1904, pp. 151-152.

In this paper are described the following new forms: *Porzana goldmani*, from the valley of